

and remember with gratitude his exceptional service as our ambassador to Norway.

"He left the world a better place than he found it. And no one could ask for a finer legacy."

"Hillary and I are keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers."

Brian Hermelin then gave an emotional, personal tribute to his father.

"The thing about us that made us feel the most special was that he was our dad," Brian said. "Just being able to be with him at the intimate family settings allowed the full bright glow of one of God's brightest lights to shine on us and provided a comfort and security which is irreplaceable."

Brian added, "He just knew how much fun it was to be alive. And he was sure if you were with him, you would know how much fun life could be, too."

"We took such pride in his accomplishments with him," Brian said. "We were all equally amazed at how far and how much he accomplished because we know how he saw himself, just a regular kid from Pasadena [Avenue in Detroit]. He made it all seem so within our reach—the accomplishments, the friends, the admiration, the fun. Just go out there with that positive, can-do attitude and you can have all that, too."

Rabbi Groner mourned his friend, whose influence was felt from the sanctuary of the synagogue to the far reaches of the world stage.

"When a true leader goes, can he be replaced?" the rabbi asked. "Woe is the army that has lost its captain."

"We will miss him. He will miss his hearty welcome, he warm laugh, his quick wit, his words of encouragement, his shared exuberance."

"When David came into a room, his luminous presence was immediately felt," Rabbi Groner added. "He was so vital, so filled with energy, so magnetic that he seemed indestructible."

"Once you came to know David, your life changed. You laughed more, you felt more, you cared more, you gave more."

"To have known David was to have warmed your hands at the central fire of life."

"For David Hermelin, service, benevolence, mitzvot was the very essence of his life," said the rabbi.

"David gave us a great and blessed gift. He taught us how to dream a glorious dream."

Mr. Hermelin is survived by his wife, Doreen; son and daughter-in-law Brian and Jennifer Hermelin; daughters and sons-in-law Marcie and Rob Orley, Karen Hermelin Borman and Mark Borman, Julie Hermelin Frank and Mitchell Frank, Francine Hermelin Levite and Adam Levite; and grandchildren Matthew, Alex, Jason and Olivia Orley, Max and Isabel Hermelin, Asa Levite and Madeline Borman.

Also surviving are sisters and brother-in-law Henrietta Hermelin Weinberg, Lois Shiffman and Terran and Roger Leemis; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Eugene and Suzanne Curtis, Reggie and Dr. Robert Fisher and Mitchell Curtis; and mother-in-law Anna Curtis.●

#### CAROL BROWNER TRIBUTE

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Carol Browner, the longest-serving Administrator in the history of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and one of the people with whom I have been most honored to work. I can think of no finer role model for young women, or young men, considering a career in government today than Carol Browner.

Since she came to the EPA seven years ago, she has set a gold standard for public service and for protection of the public's health. A dedicated advocate for the environment, she has never neglected her responsibility to protect and preserve the water, land and air that our children's children will inherit from us.

Carol Browner has been a tireless advocate for the environment and made significant contributions in every area that the EPA touches. As just one example, Administrator Browner set up a children's office at the EPA for the first time, signaling her commitment to strengthening the ties between the environment and children's health. Under Administrator Browner's control, the EPA began to take children into account when developing air and water safety standards, such as the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Food Quality Protection Act was the first law that made health of children, rather than adult males, the benchmark for evaluating safety. These two acts are monuments to Carol Browner's dedication to the environment and to children.

To better protect our nation's surface waters, Administrator Browner was a principal architect of the Clinton Administration's Clean Water Action Plan. One component of this program was to increase the public's knowledge about the potential health threats from swimming in contaminated waters at our nation's beaches. Under her leadership, EPA established a publicly-accessible Internet site containing information about water quality and beach closings across the nation. Administrator Browner and I worked closely together to strengthen the water quality standards for our nation's coastal recreation waters, and to assist states in setting up beach monitoring and notification programs. Our efforts were successful through the enactment of Public Law 106-284, also known as the "Beach Bill."

Through the Clean Water Action Plan, Administrator Browner demonstrated her ability to take on the tough fights and to do what was right for the environment. Under her leadership, EPA adopted policies to reduce polluted runoff from factory farms and from aging urban wastewater systems, and helped obtain the funding to implement these controls.

As a proponent of corporate responsibility and the citizen's "right to know," an area of particular interest to me, Administrator Browner, the law and EPA's implementation of it, effected a 50 percent drop in the rate of industrial emissions, without creating any new regulatory mandates. As another example, Administrator Browner fought to limit the industrial pollution generated by coal fire plants in Midwestern states that contributed to air pollution in New Jersey. Under Administrator Browner and President Clinton, the EPA has both vigorously enforced environmental laws and reached

out to industry to find creative new incentives and environmental results. This is the kind of leadership that Democrats and Republicans can both rally around.

Perhaps most importantly to my home state, during Administrator Browner's nearly eight-year tenure, the Superfund Program has completed three times the number of waste site cleanups than in its previous twelve years. She helped keep Superfund strong, and held fast to the belief that justice and the environment are best served when polluters pay to clean up the messes they create, even while she strove to improve the program and accelerate clean-ups. I was honored to share the stage with Administrator Browner recently at Pepe Field in Boonton, New Jersey, which was Superfund's 750th clean-up. What was once a malodorous eyesore is now a thriving community park. Pepe Field is but one of many Superfund success stories under Administrator Browner's leadership.

With her oversight of the Brownfields program, Carol Browner has demonstrated the vital ties between a healthy environment and a healthy economy. Revitalizing these sites created more than 8,300 construction jobs. And once the work was done, another 22,000 jobs were either created or retained. Much of this economic revitalization happened in communities in need, where per capita incomes averaged just over \$10,000 a year, versus a national average of almost \$14,500. This program brings both environmental and economic justice to these neighborhoods. Communities once on the verge of despair are back on the road to revitalization, thanks to Carol Browner.

Carol Browner is one of the best friends this nation's environment has ever had. As I prepare to leave the Senate, I will remember her for many things, but most of all for her optimism, her commitment, and her integrity. I thank her for her work and salute her accomplishments.●

#### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABILENE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to note a very important event for the city of Abilene, Texas. On December 2 of this year, the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra celebrated its 50th anniversary. This is one of Abilene's oldest performing arts organizations. This great symphony orchestra enriches the cultural life of this city in a unique way. It has drawn top quality musicians to this wonderful city. Abilene is now a city where talented musicians can also teach and perform. When the Philharmonic started in 1950, concerts were held in the old Abilene High School with audiences of less than 100 people. Now, the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra performs in the Abilene